

# The Spirit

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Brooklyn, NY

October 2014

Vol V, Ed II

## Club Spotlight: Humanitarian Efforts

By Kristina Hernandez

Club: Poder Latino  
President: Leticia Salazar  
Founded: 2004

Mission: Poder Latino, formerly known as Hispanic Awareness Club, promotes and celebrates the Hispanic culture by creating events on and off campus. At SJC there are a variety of Hispanic students that come from diverse backgrounds. You do not have to be Latino or of Latin descent to be in the club. They welcome all who are interested to find out more about Latino culture and appreciate the diversity Latinos bring to the SJC community.

As of now the E-board is focused on creating small events throughout the year that will help the club to be more interactive with its members.

The annual Fiesta for a Cause is during the spring semester. This is a fundraiser event where the money raised goes towards the education of low-income students in Central and South America. The club has funded them for years now and had the privilege to see most of them in college. Email: poderlatinosjcny@gmail.com

Club: S.T.R.I.P.E.S. (Students Taking Roles in Positively Empowering Society)

Presidents: Megan Wenzler & Joanna Bis

Mission: To join forces with fellow students and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. They are focusing on reaching out to places in our school neighborhood that need help and finding ways to give back to them. A must-attend event will be applying for Alternative Spring Break for the spring semester. Email: mwenzler@student.sjcny.edu or jbis@student.sjcny.edu

Club: Social Thinkers

President: Kristina Hernandez

Mission: To inform the SJC campus of societal issues in our community and nation, as well as provide them with volunteer opportunities and ways they can help spread awareness. The focus this semester is building a more stable membership base and providing fun events for all of SJC to enjoy. A must-attend event will be having a speaker, Annie Le, from New York University on November 6th to give a lecture on feminism in modern society. Email: khernandez2@student.sjcny.edu

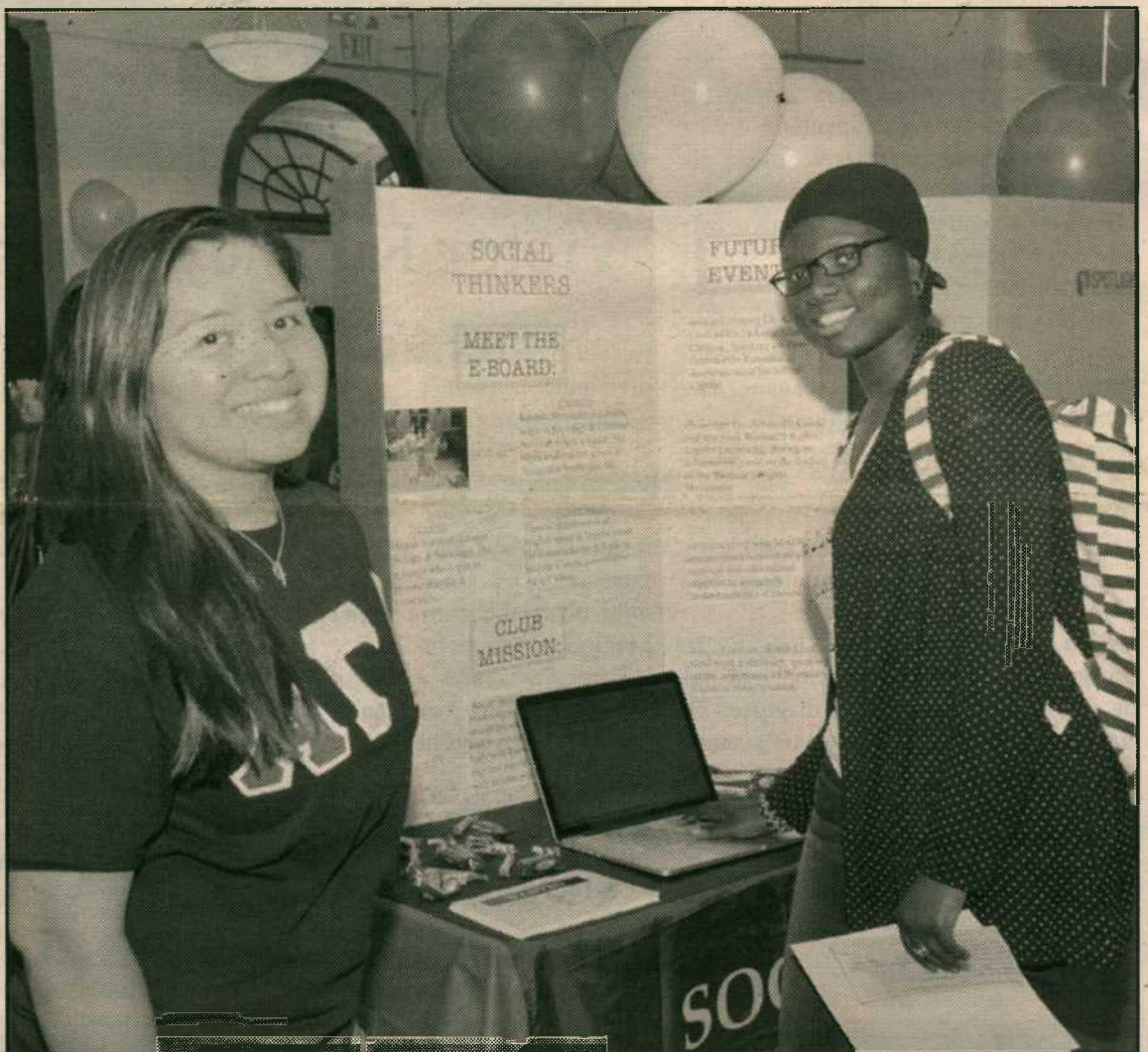


Photo Credit: Robert Napolitano

Social Thinkers Club President, Kristina Hernandez, at the Annual Club Spotlight with a prospective member

## The Voices & Concerns of the People's Climate March

By Rebecca Peeler

On September 21, 2014, people across the country came together in New York City for the People's Climate March. It was a global event that aimed to provoke world leaders to face issues regarding climate change.

The People's Climate March was heavily advertised on the subway and on social media, attracting a wide range of people. It was reported that 400,000 New Yorkers and 150 countries participated in the march, making it the largest of its kind.

The subgroups marching allowed participants to march with those with similar ideals. The first group, "Front-Lines of Crisis, Forefront of Change," led the march. Behind them was, "We Can Build the Fu-

ture," which included laborers, families, and students. The last group was, "To Change Everything, We Need Everyone," which included the majority of people. The subgroups helped tell a story of diversity in education level and background among the marchers, who were yet united and marching for the same cause.

As the crowd started to slowly move down its designated path, the streets were filled with chants and music. There were several art installations alongside the marching route with cardboard signs warning of what is to come if people continue to ignore the issue of climate change. People dressed in costumes to stand out from the crowd. Many walkers carried musical instruments and people danced and clapped as they marched. It felt like a celebration, citizens of the world coming together peacefully to promote awareness.

As we marched down 6th Ave, there was a moment of silence to reflect and remember those who have been affected and lost their lives due to climate change. It was absolutely amazing to have such a large group stop and partake in a moment of silence and reflect. After a short moment of silence the crowd was instructed to yell, scream, and make a tremendous amount of noise. This burst of noise was intended to wake people up, to alert them that we are here and will no longer look the other way in matters to climate change.

I saw a number of families, parents with their young children. Parents who want to have an active role in making this a better place for their children. Our generation needs to be the driving force that promote awareness, educates, and most importantly demands change.



Photo Credit: Rebecca Peeler



# Teaching Across the Years, for Generations

Victor Ramsey  
Guest Columnist

Teaching is a word often associated with lore, or even legend, because most people can remember at least one teacher who had a positive impact on their lives. It is as if the knowledge or confidence the teacher imparted resonates even years later, testimony to how their scholarship and strategic wittiness made learning enjoyable.



Dr. Ramsey with Sister Pat  
Sister Patricia Dittmer, or as she is fondly called, Sister Pat, has just completed her 43rd year as an early childhood teacher at The Dillon Child Study Center at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY, with 40 of those years as an instructor in the Child Study Department. Over the years she has taught the 3, 4, and 5 year olds. She also worked for a year at St. Luke's Roosevelt's Therapeutic Nursery School while studying at Bank Street College of Education.

A petite woman with beautiful silver hair and a contagious bright smile, Sister Pat loves working with children and believes "children are a gift sent by God." She possesses an amazing ability to connect with them using unique and realistic approaches. She guides children to learn from everyday experiences, current information, music, songs, crafts, The New York Times, and more. Sister Pat recently said, "Every year is memorable and I learn so much about teaching, the children, and myself."

With passion, devotion, and love, Sister Pat cultivates both social development and an array of academic skills disguised as fun reading, listening, and speaking games



Photo Credit: Victor Ramsey

## Victor Ramsey and his family with Sister Pat

and activities. The joy of learning is reflected in the faces and actions of the children under her watch.

Every day my wife Kisha and I ask our son, Caleb, "What did you do or learn in school today?" He always begins his answer, "Sister Pat says..." He explains what he has absorbed, and yes, he shows us the facts to make his case, so much so that he now owns the entire collection of the Magic Tree House books.

Sister Pat shares a well-lit classroom with her wonderful assistant of eight years, Ms. Caroline McPherson, who comple-

ments her and brings a gleam to the children's faces with her customary warm greeting and caring interactions. Sister Pat transforms the room into a magical world evoking stories and characters in the children's books. The classroom is every parent's dream because one doesn't need to go far to get a sense of what is happening here.

We are blessed that Sister Pat also taught two of Caleb's uncles and his aunt. Recently she met with all three and shared memories with brothers Milton Baynes '81 and Attila Baynes '86, and their sister

Alana Baynes '88. When asked to describe her philosophy of education, Sister Pat said, "I believe in the potential and integrity of each child, and it is my privilege to cooperate with parents to foster their child's development."

This story needed to be shared to express Kisha's and my heartfelt appreciation for the many ways Sister Pat has nurtured Caleb's growth and development. Thanks for adding him to another generation of your pupils, Sister Pat. We know that Caleb will be forever grateful for his time with you.

# Don't Panic, Freshmen!

Adriana Dibenedetto

College can be extremely confusing, especially if you came to campus without all of the friends you made in high school; the familiar faces, knowing where everything is, or if you are the first in your family to have the opportunity to go to college. So what can you do, and what can the rest of us do to help, and make things more pleasant?

Firstly (hold on to your seats, kids), be kind: Say hello to people, greet them, "Good Morn-

ing." Give your seat to that lady on the bus. Maybe you're having a bad day or didn't get enough sleep, but you know how good it feels to have someone do something nice for you, how one good thing can erase all the moans and groans of the morning and get you through the day. Let your professors know that you appreciate them by showing that you are actively listening. Talk to the student sitting alone. Perhaps the lady you gave your seat to will tell you to, "Have a lovely day," and everything will suddenly feel more pleasant just because of that one simple act.

Talk to your advisor frequently: They will help you through anything that you do not understand. They are the ones who you consult with when organizing your schedule. They know what courses must be taken for your major and which will be most beneficial for your career goals.

Concentrate on your studies: Parties are not exactly in abundance in small colleges. If you do stumble upon one of these rarities, remember that drinking does not make you any cooler than you were before. You're still only yourself holding a plastic cup. Either way, your work comes first. Some people work well under pressure when they see their deadlines up close and personal. Others need time to sort through their thoughts in order to get them down on paper just the way they want. Attempt to pace yourself, but stress will be a thing.

Know the faculty and staff: Greet the security guards by learning their names. Know the campus counsellors and therapists, and don't be afraid to ask them for help.

Join a club, sport, Greek life, whatever: I used to loathe any amount of time spent inside the walls of a classroom until one of my professors recommended that I come to a meeting for The Spirit Newspaper. It was one of my better choices, honestly. Not only will it probably look good for potential jobs, but it is also extremely satisfying to feel that you are part of something.

Don't worry too much about your major freshman year: Some people start college knowing exactly what they want to major in. Some don't. You will figure it out if you try a bunch of different classes. One of my friends

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couldn't decide if she wanted to become a firefighter, a police officer, or a psychologist. She's now training to be an elementary school teacher with her focus on special education. It may take some exploring.

The declaration for your major gets handed in when you are a sophomore. It's just a sheet of paper from your advisor that gets signed by the chairperson of your new major. Voilà! Be sure to be on time. Handing in this form cleans up your WebAdvisor including your Course Planning Worksheet. It is not unheard of that handing this form in right before registration wipes out all those courses that you already got approved for next semester.

Your health is important: Have some fruit, try not to abuse caffeine, and water is your friend. Set a day each week, month, or semester where you dress nicely and actually comb your hair (with, like, an actual comb. Not just your fingers).



Credit: Ariana DiBenedetto

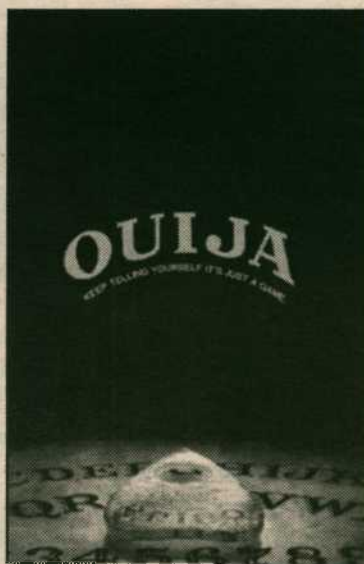


# Must-See Horror Films



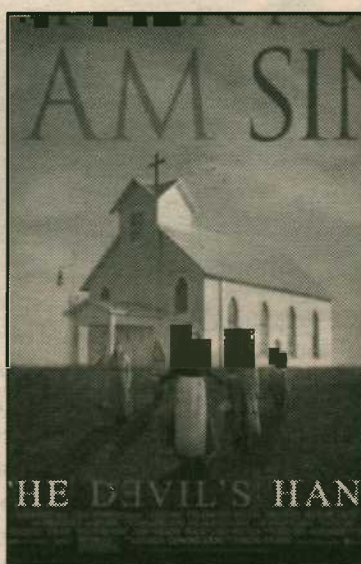
## Annabelle

"Annabelle" is, of course the first movie on my list, and if you saw "The Conjuring" you know why. This frightening film centered around a doll is a precursor to "The Conjuring" which was one of the best horror movies I've seen in a while. So if this movie is being made by the same people who created "The Conjuring" it's sure to leave you paralyzed from fear. The movie is about a doll named "Anabelle" that begins to cause a series of unfortunate events that eventually escalates and plagues a family. The longer the doll is around the more danger the family is in and they need to get rid of the doll and the demons that come along with her. Premieres: Oct 3rd



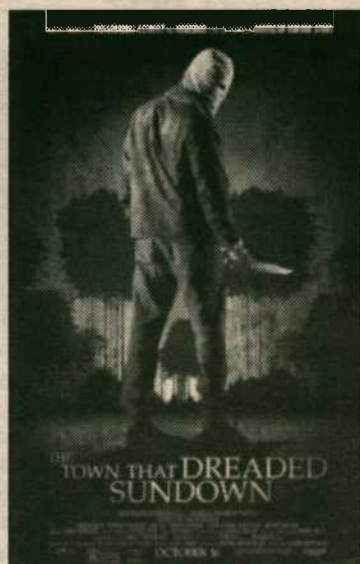
## Ouija

From the producers of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "Insidious" comes a movie about an Ouija board that's controlled by evil spirits. One night while home alone a girl innocently decides to contact the other side using a seemingly harmless Ouija board. That night she's found dead in what appears to be a suicide. Feeling vulnerable and empty, her sister decides to use the same board to contact her dead sister, Debbie. Debbie's sister and a group of friends discover that this board might have something to do with her mysterious death. The board causes demons to run rampant and torment this group of friends. In an effort to figure out what happened to Debbie and to stay alive, they must find a way to exorcise these demons and destroy the board... FOREVER. Premieres: October 24th



## The Devils Hand

In this chilling thriller a small religious cult community believes they are being targeted by the devil. A group of six girls were born on the sixth day of the sixth month and the elders believe that this is a symbol of 666 and a great sign of evil. Years later a prophecy related to the girls seems to be the reason for the sudden disappearance of multiple members of this special group. But, there might be something more sinister going on, someone maybe out to protect their community from this demonic group. Is there a greater power at work or is someone out to get these girls? Premieres: October 10th



## The Town that Dreaded Sundown

A remake of an original classic, "The Town that Dreaded Sundown" picks up where the original movie left off. 65 years after being terrorized by a mysterious masked serial killer he returns and causes the town to go into frenzy. Unsure of whether or not this is the original killer or a copycat, the townspeople and the main target of his attacks, a high school loner, are desperate to find out why he's back and who this masked killer is once and for all. The original film followed a serial killer that goes around targeting young couples and brutally murdering them. Based on a true-story this film will shock, frighten you, and ensure you'll never forget to lock your doors again. Premieres: October 16th



## ABCs of Death 2

"ABCs of Death 2" is a follow up to the previous horror anthology "ABCs of Death", comprised of 26 short and terrifying films. This genre film consists of a horror film related to each letter of the alphabet. Uncomfortably gruesome at times, this series is a must this Halloween season. From A-Z directors from around the globe unite in all of their gory glory to give us some excellent works of dreadful horror.

# We Can't Clear This History

By Constance Lowe

Sociologists, historians, and scholars of the future have an entirely different set of scrolls and cave drawings to dissect and understand our culture. The trails we're leaving behind are on the Internet, which may or may not make us look like neurotic, bigoted psychopaths to an objective outsider. The veiled anonymity the Internet provides turns our computers into one big dumping ground for our subconscious. The phenomenon of internet bullying has emerged from this--targeted attacks against a singular victim, to a particularly snarky comment made under a YouTube video. It is assumed that by replacing one's identity with a username and displacing face-to-face interactions in a

The sexual violence women are met with just for having an Internet presence is obscene and in overwhelming numbers.

social interface, we maximize the opportunity for maliciousness to take place. What does it say about us as a culture, or perhaps even as a race, that we take that opportunity and run with it? Will future researchers ask the Internet first and study human responses second?

Let's make women in society a case study. For instance, it can be assessed that many of the subtleties of sexism that become

glossed over in real life, are amplified ten-fold online. The sexual violence women are met with just for having an Internet presence is obscene and in overwhelming numbers. From forward inappropriateness, back-handed compliments, to threats of rape, all a woman has to do is post an opinion that is contradictory to that of a male user, or worse, post a video and be subjected to a panel of jurors who are apparently leading authorities in the field of what constitutes as attractive.

In the recent iCloud breach, 200+ private photographs of female celebrities were distributed online. What is perhaps more disconcerting than this disruption of privacy, is the backlash of the public comment. The accompanying comments suggest not only a lack of empathy

for these women but even alluded to feelings of a vengeful nature such as men who wanted to humiliate women whose films they didn't like or careers they didn't respect. The women were shamed from having taken them in the first place (despite most of the women being married and all of them in challenging career fields that undoubtedly require lots of travel and being away from their significant others).

In fact, these are only very mild developments in comparison to the history of "revenge porn" that has gained momentum over the course of the Internet's existence. Women and even teenage girls, including three of the celebrities whose photos were hacked, are bashed, threatened, and even blackmailed by men who derive a certain smug pleasure in making someone else

uncomfortable. This is something women are used to being subjected to from catcalling on the street to getting pushed up against "accidentally-on-purpose" by strangers on the subway. What's more insulting than a few couple hundred thousand (maybe millions?) of misogynist creeps? The millions more who don't bat an eye. Women once more are blamed for daring to exist, ridiculed, and hyper sexualized. Although culturally, women enjoy many of the same opportunities as men do in this country, it's evident that the Internet just is not a safe place for women. So what does that say about humanity?



# Politics & Society

## Savvy Start-Ups & the Benefit of Being Educated

By Adelyn Tomlinson

As with any career path taken, it is important to recognize those who have stood out among the masses and have charged ahead through financial woe or other binding obstacles. Start-up companies are popping up all over the country and undergraduate students from a variety of universities are making waves in terms of creativity and ingenuity within these organizations. An Indiana University student recently created his own all-natural energy drink called "Punch," and is beginning to market this drink through Anheuser-Busch distributors. Another student from the University of Houston owns and operates three Splendid Donut and Ice Cream stores, while also double majoring in entrepreneurship and marketing. Both student's background in marketing was no doubt useful to their advertising and selling side, and was most likely the kindle that helped spark their success.

The value of an educational background may not always be obviously useful to a career, but using the resources from the classroom in order to create something outside of oneself is the goal of a true entrepreneur. Take for example a local start up success. Adina Grigore, founder and CEO of SW Basics, an all-natural skin care product company located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Grigore's organic skin care products company is thriving in Brooklyn and around the country in part because of her desire to start a business that would be beneficial to the community. Having a background education in Nutrition, Grigore was schooled in the essentials needed for healthy and pure skin. Combined with her goals, she asked, "Why not

just do it myself?"

Building and maintaining such a business, however, is far from easy. "There is always something that needs done," she says. From labeling bottles to returning emails, a savvy and self-made business owner is not exempt from such duties and an educational and professional background surely aids in this aspect.

There are many students, like Grigore, who find the courage to start and operate their own company straight out of college. And why not?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, many college grads searching for jobs come up empty handed, with the unemployment rate at about 15 percent for their age group. Wasting those four plus years and hours of classroom time and homework research seems rather depressing as students fall victim to the basement of their parents. This doesn't have to be the case.

Being branded the "laziest generation" doesn't mean students should live up to that expectation. Start-ups not only in NYC but across the nation are becoming very important for communities and those jobs focused on certain niches. Post-grads are using their ideas and knowledge to serve others while at the same time avoiding the corporate hum drum, and they have a solid educational background to thank for this. Colleges seem to be providing more programs committed to certain niches and this is helpful in the long run, as students build their career in college and not after. Just as Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and the young entrepreneurs now running donut shops and energy drink companies, education was and still is the backdrop for their ideas. A strong educational background, while unique and perhaps oftentimes unconventional, can help any student follow their passion.

Post-grads are using their ideas and knowledge to serve others while at the same time avoiding the corporate hum drum

## Cons of the Comic Con Craze: Commercialism & Sexism

By Daniela Cardinale

Nerds unite! Or rather everyone get in the same boat? Up until a few years ago, Comic Con was an event only comic book fans and professionals attended. That change for good after the Marvel movies began to take over the box office. For this reason, Comic Con has become insanely popular all over the country, especially in New York.

Because of the overwhelming interest, Comic Con has become a well-oiled machine for all outlets of the entertainment field and the media to market to the public. Con organizers have been able to make tons of money by selling VIP passes that scalpers have been making huge profits re-selling for astronomical prices. That's just to get in the door.

The majority of vendors at Comic Con make a pretty penny selling their goods. Gaming companies such as Nintendo have been able to release games, boosting sales by a hundredfold. There are booths for everything: anime, comics, art, books, games, toys, food, and services such as framing and insurance. So if you attend Comic Con, be sure to bring a lot of cash because booths will make sure that you spend it on something.

As of recently, sexism has become a huge issue for Comic Con officials to deal with. Though the majority of people

who attend New York's Comic Con do not cosplay (i.e dress up as a favorite fictional character), there are many who do. The issue with this is the harassment that attendees, particularly women, have received as a result of wearing revealing costumes. The most common problem they face is groping and inappropriate comments that make these women feel uncomfortable and objectified.

In the past month, the harassment policy for New York's convention changed from being "what's illegal outside is illegal inside" to a zero-tolerance policy for harassment of any kind. This is a step in the right direction, but does not provide a solution to this problem. The most popular female characters (Storm from X-Men, Black Widow from The Avengers, and Spiderwoman) are portrayed sexually in movies and comics because they market to men. Ultimately, for the harassment to stop, how women are portrayed in all outlets must change.

Comic Con is still an awesome convention to attend. It's an event that has been able to unite a city, even the country, in a way no one ever expected. With the help of Hollywood and the support of the public, New York Comic Con has become a haven for not only nerds, but for everyone.

## MATH SUDOKU

By Charles Simone

7+	9x	6+	
			5+
1-		4+	
2/			3

Rules:

Using numbers 1-4, place each number in a box so that every number appears once in each column and once in each row. However, they must satisfy the equation given in each section of the puzzle (bold lines divide off sections of the puzzle). If only a number is shown in a box, then the number shown goes in that square. This is how you read an equation in the puzzle:

Ex. A section shows 3+. You must find two numbers that add to 3, which are 2 and 1. However, you must put these numbers in the correct spots.

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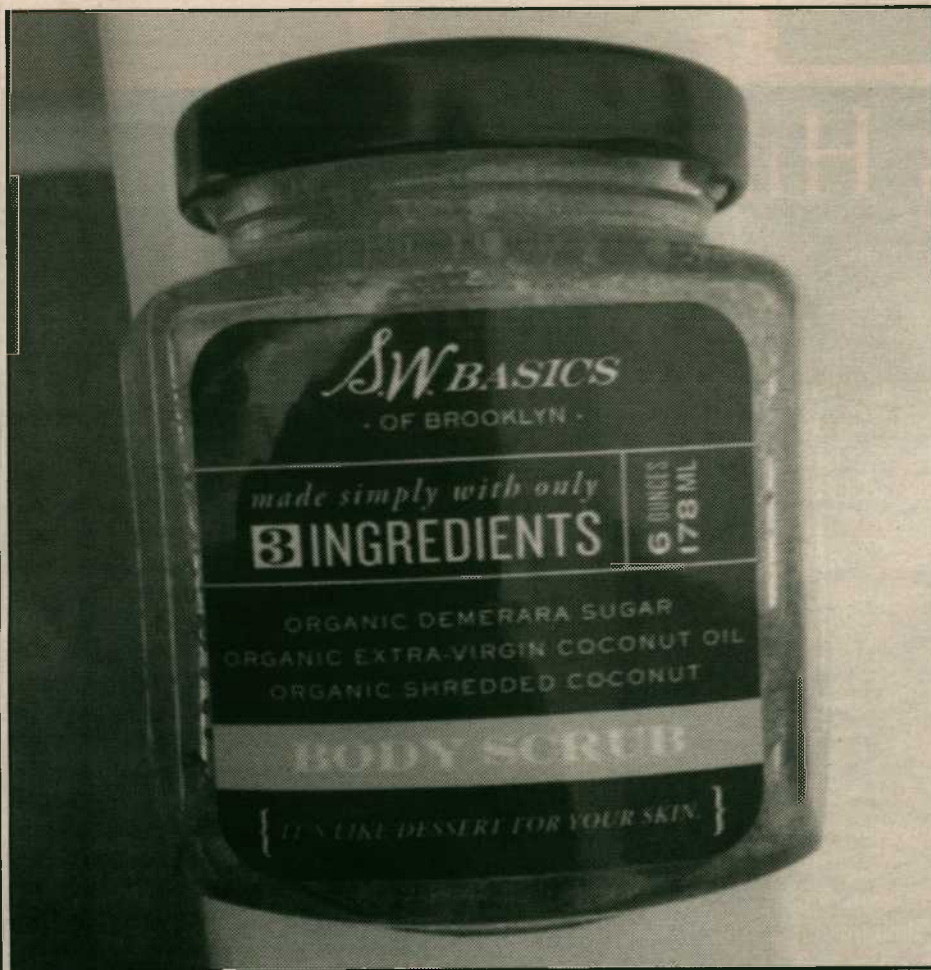


Photo Credit: Adelyn Tomlinson

A product from S. W. Basics, a Brooklyn-based start-up company.